

Conrad Lines House  
Ringwood and Highland Avenues  
Wanaque, Passaic County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Conrad Lines House  
Ringwood and Highland Avenues  
Wanaquo, Passaic County, New Jersey

Owner: Nora Finnigan

Date of Erection: About 1745

Architect:

Builder: Conrad Lines or Leyn

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - fieldstone

Exterior walls - main  
unit stone with frame  
gable ends; wing frame

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch with dormers  
of later date on main unit

Historical Data:

Thomas Hart, merchant of Enfield, Middlesex, England, was one of the twelve grantees to whom Lady Carteret and eight trustees sold East New Jersey by indenture dated February 1, 1681-2; these twelve immediately associated themselves with twelve others creating twenty-four shares. Hart preserved his right unimpaired, and it descended after 1700 to his sister Patience Ashfield. Her grandson and heir Richard Ashfield came to the province and was appointed

in September 1725 Receiver-General of the Board of Proprietors. He sold by deed dated May 20, 1741 and recorded May 20, 1745 (Book C - page 75 - Bergen County Deeds), a tract of 683 acres at Winoque to Anthony Beam, Abraham Leyn, and Conrad Leyn (later Liens and Lines). This deed describes the parcel as beginning in a line of survey formerly made for Joseph Cartright two chains west from his northeast corner at the foot of a mountain to the east of the Conrad Lines' dwelling house. Apparently sometime after the purchase made in 1741 Conrad Lines had erected a house; we believe the stone part of the present dwelling was this building.

By a deed dated October 12, 1784 and recorded March 29, 1796 (Book H - page 248 - Bergen County Deeds), Conrad Lines sold his one-third share minus thirteen acres to his son Daniel Lines; the property is described as "all that piece and parcel of land now in actual possession of Daniel Lines, and whereon he now dwelleth". The deed describes Conrad Lines as from Wioming, Pennsylvania; he had apparently left Bergen County and settled in that state.

The next conveyance for this property is from Jacobus Post to David D. Hennion on May 4, 1802 (Book P - page 217 - Bergen County Deeds). There is nothing in the records to indicate how he received the property; it may have been through his father Peter whose will shows he owned land in Wanaque. David Hennion died in 1829 and in his will (Book C - page 351 - Bergen County Wills) left the farm to his son David Jr. who retained ownership until April 1, 1859 when he conveyed the property to James C. Vreeland for four thousand nine hundred dollars (Book E - page 488 - Passaic County Deeds).

James C. Vreeland deeded the property containing the house and one acre and a quarter acres to Mary Emma Vreeland on May 20, 1894 (Book O 11 - page 616 - Passaic County Deeds).

The next possessor on record was Conrad Vreeland; we do not know how he obtained possession, evidently there is an unrecorded deed. After his death in 1913 the house was sold to William H. Mooney (Book W 31 - page 208 - Passaic County Deeds) who by his will dated May 23, 1931, and probated November 23, 1931 (Book B 4 - page 154 - Passaic County Wills) left the property to Nora Finnigan the present owner.

Bibliography:

Clayton, W. W. History of Bergen and Passaic Counties, New Jersey Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1882

Whitehead, W. A. East Jersey Under the Proprietary Governments Newark, The New Jersey Historical Society, 1846

A search of Bergen and Passaic County court records by Joseph Benenati, Bergen County Office

Walter E. Rutt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

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A D D E N D U M

The main unit of this house is in design and detail distinctly in the Dutch manner of the 1740s. The stone part with a 38 feet front and a 31 feet gable end is in the familiar one story garret and cellar arrangement. The floor plan shows two large living rooms in front, each entered directly from the front porch, and two bedrooms behind. The frame unit has an 18 feet depth and a 28 feet length which is flush with the rear wall of the stone section. Its details indicate it was erected about 1825 and probably replaced an earlier stone service wing.


The site selected with its slope allows the southwest end of the major unit to have its cellar wall exposed so that a direct entrance is possible by a door on the grade.

The masonry walls of trap rock with brownstone corner quoins all laid up in clay mortar, rise 11 feet 4 inches from the first floor line to the wall plate; above that point the gable ends are of timber sheathed by clapboards. A brick chimney is built into the inside of these end walls and extends in the center of the ridge of the wood shingled roof.

The spread eaves, a notable feature in Dutch colonial has been removed, only a remnant remains of the beginning of the outward flare. The open garret has been divided into three rooms on each side of a central corridor, the length of the house, and small dormer windows have been set into the roof.

Bibliography:

From architectural notes made by Lewis D. Cook

  
HERBERT N. MOFFETT  
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